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THE OBSERVATOR.

The Country-man's *search after* Truth *and* Honesty. *Of the Danger of False Notions of Loyalty to* Princes. *Of the State of the* Popish *and* Protestant *Religions.*

From **Saturday** January the 22d, to **Wednesday** January the 26th, 1703/4.

Obs. WELL, Honest *Country-man*, hast thou found the Lodging of *Truth* and *Honesty?*

Country-m. Upon my honest word, I have made a diligent Enquiry after them; and to satisfie you that I have, I will give you a Journal of my Proceedings. I left my Horse at *Fox-Hall*, and took a Boat over to the *Horse-Ferry*; I saw no considerable Houses in my way to the *Abbey*, but those of *Brewers*, *Distillers* and *Cole-Mongers*, and thought it in vain to enquire at any of these Places; then I went to the *Abbey*, where I found the Folk at their Devotion, and not caring to disturb them with a Question, I went thro' *Kings-Street* to *White-Hall*, passing thro' by the *Treasury Chambers*, I saw a parcel of Messengers, think I, I won't Enquire of these, for fear they should ask me who I am; for above all Men, I don't care to be Acquainted with that sort of People; besides, I thought 'twas in vain to put the Question to them, since they have been so long Chequ'd by *Tom Tittle Tattle*; as I came cross the Broad place that leads to the great Clock, I saw a Soldier stand with a Pair of *Boots* on, and a short *Gun* in his Hand; so I dofft my Hat and said unto him, Master *Soldier*, Pray will you be pleased to tell me whereabouts Mr. *Truth* and Mr. *Honesty* do Lodge? He look'd upon me as fierce as if he had been going to Kill half the *French* Kings Troops; and Rapping out an Oath, says he, *I think the Fellow is a Fool.* I dofft my Hat to'm again, and said, I hope no harm, Master *Soldier*, I am sure I meant none. Being thus Snub'd at first, I took a Walk thro' the *Strand*, till I came to the Change, where I stood a little while at a Shop, intending to ask the Question of Mrs. *Sempstress*, as soon as her Customers were gone. But I heard her say she could not bate One Farthing of her Price, when presently after she took 5 or 6 Shillings less than she ask'd; this prov'd her a Lyar, and then by the Nasty Patches on her Face, I concluded she was not very Honest; so I went away without speaking one Word to the false thing in Petticoats.

I but look'd, as I went along, into the *Quondam* Coney-burrow of the Priests and Jesuits, for I remember'd that Honest Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey* was Murdered at the place, and I question'd whether it was not still infected: You may be sure I did not enquire in my way at any of the *Inns of Court*; so on I Trudg'd till I came to *Ludgate*, where I had a likely Thought come into my Head, and so I cross'd the way to the Court just by *Ludgate*, to Enquire after *Truth* and *Honesty* of *Robin Hog*; for I concluded that he had heard of their coming to Town, and that by this Time he had got a Warrant for their Apprehension: Coming to his Stye, I Knock'd at the Door, and a *Sow-Pig* coming out, I enquir'd after her *Sire*, she told me that he was gone to Brim a *Sow* at *Amen-Corner*; and I not caring to go out of my way after the Swine, I proceeded as far as the *Royal-Exchange*, and in I went among the rest, but was soon weary of the Hum and Buz; I fancy'd my self at *Babel*, there was such a confus'd Jabbering of all sorts of Languages; well, thinks I, this will never do, these Men look too Proud to Answer a Poor Man a Question; then I Rambl'd I don't know where, but passing by a Place with a great Pair of Gates, I ask'd what Place 'twas, they told me 'twas the *Navy-Office*, I Shrugg'd up my Shoulders, and pass'd over *Tower-Hill*, I look'd at the *Victualling-Office*, but I thought 'twas never the near to make any Enquiry there after *Truth* and *Honesty*.

So I e'en went down to *Tower-Wharf*, without making any Enquiry at the Ordinance or of the Combinators at the *Custom-House*, and immediately croft over to *Southwark*, in I goes to *Robin Rows* Coffee-House, calls for a Dish of choice *Ninny-Broth*, takes a clean Pipe, and began to Funk my Nose powerfully; thinks I, here are abundance of Honest Gentlemen use this House, and I fancy it a proper Place for Enquiry; thereupon I took the boldness upon me to put the Question to a Gentleman that Sat with me at the Table; said he, *There are two Gentlemen, call'd* Truth *and* Honesty, *come to Town; but at present they lie Private: For they are so much like the* Observator *and his* Country-man, *that they are affraid of being taken up under a Mistake.* Now, Sir, *Truth* and *Honesty* being not to be found for some time; will you be pleased to entertain the Company with some Honest Discourse on the Subject matter of our last Conference.

Obs. I shall readily comply in any thing that may be Pleasing to you, and Serviceable to the Publick. If we look into History, we shall find it confirm'd, That the Ruine of most Princes has Sprung from the Extravagant and Strained Notions of *Loyalty* advanced by their Ministers; tho' they are so far from being *Loyal*, that endeavour to make Princes Absolute, to make their Governments Uncircumbscrib'd, and to require Obedience without Reserve from the People; that by setting the King above the Law, they put him out of the Protection of Law, *i. e.* They make him a Tyrant, and thereby Absolve all the People of the Realm from their Obedience to him. By these Notions of *Loyalty* the *Romish* Emissaries have Crept into the Favour and Councils of too many Princes, and by their Tenets of *Arbitrary-Power*, *Soveraign-Will*, and other *Enslaving-Doctrines*, have infected many, who we Charitably hope, do not know themselves to be Papists: Let me here Read you a Paragraph of a Book in my Hand not long since Printed, call'd *A View of the Posture of Affairs in* Europe, *both in Church and State.*

Says the Author, *Most of the Princes in* Europe *are either Absolute, or love to be so. The* Missionaries *Represent to them, That the Principles of their Church are more for the Advancement and Security of an Absolute Government, than any other. Cardinal* Rosetti, *used this Argument to King* Charles *the First, here in* England; *and* Vittorio Siri, *tells how much it took with the King, and what Effects it produced*

duced both here and in Ireland. *If it be true that he Writes, it Justifies the Proceeding of the Parliament to me; more than all that I ever heard on that Head, and should make every Nation concerned to know who comes to Court.*

If we look into the Politicks of the *Roman* Clergy, we shall find them Preaching up *Loyalty* to Soveraigns, for no other Reasons than to get them under their own Girdles; and you never yet found any of 'em all, that put a Prince upon a War, or any Enterprize tending to the Enlargement of his Dominions, but the Holy-Church was at the Bottom of the Design. The Project of a Ninth Electorate seems to be a Religious Contrivance, it being Created upon Conditions, in Favour of Holy Church; for the Elector was to Build at his own Charge, a Church for the Jesuits, and to tolerate the free Exercise of their Religion in *Hanover*; but a stop being put to the final Conclusion of the *Electoral Right*, the Church stands unfinish'd to this Day. And the Elector of *Saxony* had never come to the Crown of *Poland*, but by Granting good Terms to the Church of *Rome* in *Saxony*. In short, the Popish Princes seldom make any League or Treaty with Protestant Powers, but either openly or secretly, they get some Advantage for those of their own Communion. And they have their Priests and Missionaries in all Countries for that purpose. 'Twould be well if Protestant Powers would do the like, and take the same Measures to promote the Reformed Religion in Foreign Countries, and at home, that the Protestant Religion might become the Common-Cause of the Protestant Princes.

This was the constant Practice of our Glorious Queen *Elizabeth*, she always made the Protestant Religion the better for Her Treaties. She Encouraged the Reformation in all Parts of the World, and gave Her Publick Dislike of those that Oppos'd it. She Liberally Supply'd *Henry* the Fourth whilst he was Reformed; but upon his Apostacy to the *Roman Religion*, She with-held Her Hand, and yet at the same time made good Terms for the Protestants in *France*, with Assurances to them of Her Assistance, if ever the *French* King should make any Encroachments upon them.

But this we cannot expect should be done, while we have a sort of Protestants that can fly as high as any Papists, and fetch Loyalty, under the Names of *Passive-Obedience*, and *Non-Resistance*, from above the Clouds; that can give our Protestant Brethren in the *Cevennes*, who are now in Arms in Defence of their Holy Religion, and for the Recovery of their just Rights, the Odious Names of *Rebels*: Would not we do the same thing as they now do, were we in their Circumstances? Nay, did we not do the same thing upon the Revolution? And had we not done it sooner, if we had an Opportunity of so doing? Surely no Man can blame those People for embracing an Opportunity of delivering themselves from the Chains and Fetters of their Tyrant.

If we look into the Accounts Abroad, we shall find that every Turn of State has made against the Reformed, and that the *Protestant* Powers have been Negligent in supporting one another on the Foot of their Religion. The Family of *Newburgh* were forc'd to turn *Catholick*, to get the Assistance of the *Spaniards* to possess them of *Juliers* and *Bergue*; and afterwards succeeding to the *Palatine* Family, they have Ruined all the *Protestant* Churches on the *Rhine*: The Emperour has Rooted every Family of them out of the Kingdom of *Bohemia* and *Silesia*, in *Hungary* they are quite broken, in *Transilvania* they remained some Time longer, whilst they were under the Protection of the *Turks*, but how it fared with them when they fell into the Emperours Hands, I can't tell. In *Poland* they are Suppress'd; in *Swabia* and *Franconia* they are very weak, in Comparison of the *Catholicks*. The Elector of *Mentz*, the Bishop of *Munster*, and the Elector of *Cologn*, have quite worn out the *Protestants* in those parts. If we look into the Free-Ports in *Italy*, we shall find the *Protestant* Merchants live there Peaceably, and enjoy the Benefit of Trade; but neither the Great Duke of *Tuscany*, the Viceroy of *Naples*, nor the States of *Venice* and *Genoua*, will allow them to keep a Minister, nor to perform any Divine Service in their own way of Worship. Such Hardships do the *Protestants* meet with in all *Popish* Countries.

Country-m. And why don't we do so by the *Papists* in *England*? We have Thousands of Priests that say Mass privately, besides those that belongs to the *Ambassadors*, *Envoys* and *Residents* of *Popish* Princes; but I remember in King *Williams* Time the Constables, every Lords-Day, did stand at those Chappel-Doors, to keep such as were His Majesties Subjects from going in: I could say something, but that I am afraid the *Hog* would go to the *Sessions-House*, and Solicit a Bill against me, as he did against you, last Summer, for Writing against the *Papists*.

Obj. I value no Bill against me: I never Wrote a Line in my Life, but in Vindication of my Queens Title, against *Papists*, *Non-jurors* and *Tantivy-Men*; in Defence of the Power of Parliament and the Liberties of the People; and if I suffer for this, I suffer in a good Cause, for which some of our Noble Progenitors lost their their Lives, and for which we their Children ought to venture Ours.

But by what I have said concerning the State of the Popish and the Protestant Religion, we must conclude, that the former is in a Thriving, and the latter in a Decaying Condition; when the Papists have Friends among them that call themselves Protestants, and the *Protestants* no Friends among the Papists; and what is worst of all, the one is Diligent, and the other Negligent: What vast Expence are the *Papists* at in carrying on their Cause, while the *Protestants* are Careless of the Security of their Religion; we have at present an Instance of the Vigilance of the *Romish Clergy*, that come into *England*, by their Fund, discover'd by the *Irish Parliament*, for preventing any Bills passing, or any Orders for putting the Laws in Execution against them; well may they have the Hopes of making *England* again Tributary to the See of *Rome*, when they can keep Caballs and Clubs in the *Metropolis* of the Kingdom, and raise Money for pernicious Ends and Purposes; and all this done contrary to the Laws of the Realm.

What shall we say to these Things? 'Tis not in our Power to Remedy these Evils. We can only sit down and Lament the said State of our dear Country, when we see *Protestants* Prosecuted for Writing against *Papists*; and *Papists*, who have Writen against our Queen and the Government, go Unpunished: We may behold from afar the Clouds gathering in the Air, the Skie looking Angry upon us; the sure Presages of *Storms* and *Tempests*, of *Hurricanes* of Fate, that anon will over-spread our Native Country, and Execute the Judgment of the most High. Well is it for those who never Bow'd the Knee to the *Baals* of *Popish* or *Protestant* Self-Interest; they may Sit undisturb'd in the midst of the greatest Commotions, as having done their Duty, and thereby having procured that Satisfaction and Peace of Mind, which Tyrants and Oppressors can never Rob them of; 'tis for their sakes that we are a People, and hope to continue so; and all our hopes may Center in this; that God Governs the World, that he has now begun to dash the *Potsherds* of the Earth one against another; which we may lawfully pray him to continue, till such time as they are so weakned, that they shall never more be able to Persecute his People.

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